

## ARTICLE 10 - AREA COMMITTEES

### 10.01 Area Committees

The Council may appoint Area Committees as it sees fit, if it is satisfied that to do so will ensure improved service delivery in the context of best value and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making.

### 10.02 Form, composition and function

- (a) The Council will appoint the following Area Committees with the terms of reference indicated:-

<u>Name of Committee</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Terms of Reference</u>
Brierley Hill	Members of the Council representing the Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett, Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley wards.	1. To determine proposals for the deployment of the delegated capital budget allocation. 2. To develop and introduce a local community plan for their Area, if appropriate.
Central Dudley	Members of the Council representing the Castle and Priory, St. James's, St. Thomas's, Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrew's and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood wards.	3. To consider issues of local relevance raised by the public, local organisations or members of the Area Committee.
North Dudley	Members of the Council representing the Coseley East, Gornal, Sedgley and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton wards.	4. To be consulted on relevant local service delivery issues in relation to the following: Social Services Housing Education (ie: schools, pre-school and community and lifelong learning) Environmental Health Highways and Transportation Leisure.

<u>Name of Committee</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Terms of Reference</u>
Halesowen	Members of the Council representing the Belle Vale, Cradley and Foxcote, Halesowen North, Halesowen South and Hayley Green and Cradley South wards.	5. To be consulted on issues regarding Council-owned land within their area, except in the following cases which will be the subject of consultation with Ward Members only before being determined by the Director of Law and Property:-
Stourbridge	Members of the Council representing the Amblecote, Lye and Wollescote, Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East and Wollaston and Stourbridge Town wards.	<p>(a) The purchase of land and property up to a value of £250,000 or where the sale would release the Council from ongoing liabilities or the sale is to an adjacent landowner where a development site exists and there is an opportunity to maximise the overall development.</p> <p>(b) Domestic and commercial vehicular access agreements.</p> <p>(c) Temporary licences to occupy land.</p> <p>(d) Drainage, gas/electric, etc. easements.</p> <p>(e) Former utility company licences.</p>

- (f) Variation or release of covenants in leases and conveyances.
- (g) Extinguishment or variations of rights.
- (h) New leases, licences tenancies, easements, wayleaves and rights of way.
- (i) Determination of requests to site builders compounds and temporary use of Council owned land.

(The Director of Law and Property will if he considers it necessary or appropriate, have the option to refer any matter for consideration by an Area Committee)

6. To be consulted on any planning application which would have a significant impact on a substantial part of their area.

7. To be consulted on draft supplementary planning guidance, development briefs, designation of conservation areas and the exercise of compulsory purchase powers.

Name of  
Committee

Composition

Terms of Reference

8. The administration of local charities for their area, where the Council has been appointed trustee.

9. To make representations about the naming of streets, numbering of houses, public seats, public monuments and statues.

(b) Delegations

The Council and the Cabinet will include details of the delegations to Area Committees in Part 3 of this Constitution.

10.03 Conflicts of Interest - Membership of Area Committees and Select Committees

(a) Conflict of interest

If a Select Committee is scrutinising specific decisions or proposals in relation to the business of the Area Committee of which the councillor concerned is a member, then the councillor may not speak or vote at the Select Committee meeting unless a dispensation to do so is given by the Standards Committee.

(b) General policy reviews

Where the Select Committee is reviewing policy generally the member must declare his/her interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

10.04 Area Committees - Access to Information

Area Committees will comply with the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Agendas and notices for Area Committee meetings which deal with both functions of the Cabinet and functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet will state clearly which items are which.

10.05 Cabinet Members on Area Committees

A Cabinet Member may serve on an Area Committee if otherwise eligible to do so as a councillor.

10.06 Area Committee Chairmen

Arrangements will be made for the Chairmen of Area Committees to discuss the operation and functions of Area Committees.

10.07 Area Committees – Protocol

The protocol for Area Committees in Part 6 of this Constitution shall apply to meetings of Area Committees.